

FEB 23 2011

RICHARD F. VOLKER
325 W. Washington Street
Suite 2, #337
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 299-6091 (tel)

Feb. 22, 2011

Iain Fisher, CPUC
Greg Thomsen, BLM
c/o Dudek
605 Third St.
Encinitas, CA 92024

Re: ECO Letter to CPUC

Dear Mr. Fisher and Mr. Thomsen,

I am an owner of property in the Campo area and I believe that San Diego Gas & Electric's ECO Substation Project is the kind of project needed in East San Diego County to create jobs while at the same time preserving the environment and bolstering the economy for our children and grandchildren.

In East County, we are blessed with plenty of wind. It's a natural resource. In fact, experts have identified portions of eastern San Diego County, Imperial County and the northern Baja California region as being rich in potential renewable energy resources such as the sun, wind and steam heat from the earth (geothermal power).

However, this valuable renewable energy resource is not being currently utilized. We need to put the wind to work for us. That can't happen until infrastructure is in place that will deliver that new source of energy to market. My property is near the ECO substation site and several proposed wind farms. I believe the need for infrastructure trumps any NIMBY concerns people have.

I'm a participant in a non-profit called S.O.R.E. (Save Our Rural Economy). S.O.R.E. is a grassroots group of rural property owners and citizens concerned about the socioeconomic impacts of proposed County land-use planning practices. S.O.R.E. is comprised of ranchers, farmers, healthcare providers, professionals, tribal members and rural residents. We are seeking a fair and balanced approach to land-use planning that does not destroy property values and the rural economy while at the same time providing opportunities for new economic development in East San Diego County. We are focused on preserving and protecting population growth and housing, community character, our rural way of life, farming and industry, and, of course, the environment.

Farming was a rich industry in East County throughout much of the 20th century, but has since dwindled in recent years. East County is now positioned for a new industry to take us into the future, and that's renewable energy. We've seen new green energy initiatives from Sacramento and Washington, and it's time for those initiatives to bear fruit.

One of the keys to East County reaching its full potential is tapping into the abundance of wind power. We need policies and projects that will foster private investment, because without it, there could be significant economic harm to our communities, leaving them with little or no viable economic future and placing significant strain on County taxpayers to support a continuing need for fire, school, emergency and other services in these communities.

Therefore, I believe there is urgent need for projects such as the ECO Substation, which will help improve electric reliability in East San Diego County by reducing outages. We need to generate jobs and put our friends, neighbors and family members to work. And finally, we need to cut the cord when it comes to our dependence on conventional power plants that burn fossil fuels.

I respectfully urge you to support and approve the ECO Substation Project and help make sure our region will be a place that will make our children and our children's children proud of us all.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Volker', written over a horizontal line.

Rich Volker